

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 MCT-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 AID-05 /095 W
-----055118 182353Z /14

R 180723Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1048
INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY MABABANE
AMEMBASSY MASERU
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG
AMCONSUL DURBAN

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CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINS, SF
SUBJECT: GUERRILLA WARFARE IN SOUTH AFRICA

1. APRIL 17 PRESS REPORTED THAT SPECIAL SOUTH AFRICAN FORCES HAVE ENGAGED ARMED BLACK GUERRILLAS IN THE EASTERN TRANSVALLE SINCE THE MIDDLE OF 1977. ACCORDING TO THE REPORTS, MINISTER OF POLICE JIMMY KRUGER AND SECURITY POLICE CHIEF BRIGADIER C.F. ZIETSMAN HAVE CONFIRMED THAT SOUTH AFRICAN UNITS HAVE CLASHED WITH AN INCREASING NUMBER OF GUERRILLAS WHOSE ALLEGED ANC LEADERSHIP IS BASED IN BOTSWANA AND MOZAMBIQUE. SAG CLAIMS TO HAVE CAPTURED A
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LARGE NUMBER OF ARMS, AMMUNITION, HAND GRENADES, AND EXPLOSIVES.

2. KRUGER ALSO REPORTEDLY CONFIRMED THAT IN FEBRUARY, 1978, BLACK GUERRILLAS AMBUSHED A SOUTH AFRICAN POLICE PATROL IN THE EASTERN TRANSVAAL AND THAT THE INSURGENTS ESCAPED OVER THE SWAZI BORDER. TWO WOUNDED POLICEMEN WERE TREATED IN NELSPRUIT HOSPITAL BEFORE BEING FLOWN TO PRETORIA FOR FURTHER TREATMENT.

ZIETSMAN CITED NORTHERN ZULULAND AND THE MOUNTAINOUS TRIANGULAR AREA BETWEEN SWAZILAND, MOZAMBIQUE, AND SOUTH AFRICA (PRESUMABLY THE FIGTREE AREA NORTH OF SWAZILAND) AS POTENTIAL TROUBLE SPOTS.

3. COMMENT: TO THE BEST OF OUR KNOWLEDGE, THIS IS THE FIRST CONFIRMATION THAT THE SOUTH AFRICANS HAVE FACED CONTINUOUS, ALBEIT MINOR, GUERILLA ACTIVITY AT HOME. EMBASSY ANC-CONNECTED SOURCE HAD PREVIOUSLY REPORTED THAT AN UNUSUALLY LARGE NUMBER OF BLACKS WHO HAVE UNDERGONE MILITARY TRAINING (POPULARLY KNOWN AS 'MT') HAVE BEEN PICKED UP AFTER CROSSING BACK INTO SOUTH AFRICA. SOURCE SPECULATED SAG HAD INFILTRATED ANC RANKS IN NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES. EVEN IF THIS SPECULATION IS TRUE, IT APPEARS THAT SAG INFILTRATION OF THE ARMED WING OF THE ANC REMAINS INCOMPLETE. BOWDLER

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Message Attributes

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